

THE
NEW HAVEN
PRESERVATION
TRUST

*Since 1961, an independent voice preserving New Haven's architectural heritage,
the foundation for great neighborhoods.*

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March 27, 2009

Senator Harp and Representative Geragosian, Co-chairmen
Appropriations Committee
Connecticut General Assembly
Hartford, CT 06106

Re. Senate Bill 828, An Act Concerning State Revenues

Members of the Appropriations Committee:

It has come to the New Haven Preservation Trust's attention that Section IW of this bill calls for the elimination of financial support for (1) historic preservation and open space projects, (2) farmland protection, and (3) affordable housing incentives. Such a loss would negatively impact our small, non-profit historic preservation organization in New Haven. As the recipient of several operational and architectural survey grants generated by the Community Investment Act, the Trust has taken giant steps in furthering its mission ... *to honor and preserve New Haven's architectural heritage – historic buildings and neighborhoods – through advocacy, education, and collaboration.* Among the many benefits afforded by this act, state funding has enabled the Trust to:

provide professional technical assistance to property owners and developers undertaking historic preservation projects;

hold regular committee meetings to assess threats to local historic buildings and develop preservation strategies;

maintain an accessible storefront office on State Street in New Haven;

hire a part-time office manager to maintain our membership/donor database, oversee our website, and manage our financial records;

conduct an scholarly overview of the modern architectural period in New Haven.

Other New Haven-area organizations have also benefited from Community Investment Act funding for specific projects including planning, rehabilitation, and restoration work. These include the City of New Haven, the Amistad Committee, the Irish Historic Round Table, Westville Village Renaissance Alliance, and Yale University, as well as statewide groups such as the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation and the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities.

Without Community Investment Act support, the New Haven Preservation Trust's community role as preservation conscience will be silenced and our city's architectural legacy will be at risk. Please reconsider this Act, in particular Section IW, and its adverse impact on the protection of our cultural heritage. .

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John Herzan", followed by a horizontal line.

John Herzan
Preservation Services Officer